

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Thursday, March 4, 2021
VIA ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair
Shari Cornish
Michael Deering
Gary Bellavance

Others Present

Shaun Fielder, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk

Others Present

Doug McClure

6:02 P.M. Shaun Fielder, Town Manager, called the meeting to order.

6:02 P.M. – 6:04 P.M. Reorganization of the Select Board.

Shaun asked for nominations for Chair. Shari nominated Eric. With no further nominations, Shaun ended nominations.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Gary Bellavance, the Select Board voted unanimously to appoint Eric Remick as Select Board Chair.

Eric Remick, Select Board Chair resumed control of the meeting. Eric welcomed Gary Bellavance and Michael Deering as new Select Board members.

6:04 P.M. – 6:06 P.M. Election of a Vice-Chair of the Select Board

Eric asked for nominations. Gary nominated Ceilidh Galloway-Kane.

Upon motion by Gary Bellavance, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to appoint Ceilidh Galloway-Kane as Vice Chair.

Ceilidh abstained. All others yea.

6:06 P.M. – 6:09 P.M. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of February 18, 2021, the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Public Hearing, and the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Special Select Board Meeting

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the February 18 regular meeting minutes, as written.

Gary abstained. All others yea.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 23 Public Hearing, and the minutes of the February 23 Special meeting, as written.

Gary abstained. All others – yea.

6:09 P.M. – 6:11 P.M. Set/Adjust Agenda – There was some discussion about adding appointments to the Equity Committee, but in the end, it was not added. It will be at the next meeting.

6:11 P.M. Communication from the Audience – none

6:12 P.M. – 6:29 P.M. Item # 1 Town Appointments.

- Aaron Cochran, Civil Defense/Emergency Management Coordinator
- TBD, Town Energy Coordinator
- Dean Mercier, Animal Control Officer
- Shari Cornish, CVSWMD Representative
- Shaun Fielder, as CVSWMD Alternate Representative
- Lawrence Hamel, Town Service Officer
- Elizabeth Dow, as Agent to Convey Real Estate
- Shari Cornish, as Board Representative to Sign Check Warrants
- Shari Cornish, as NEKArt’s Board Representative
- Paul Fixx, Doug McClure as alternate, as NEK Broadband
- Eric Remick, as Hardwick Trails Committee Rep.
- Eric Remick, Lamoille Valley Rail Trails Committee Rep.
- Emily Varvir, new member to the Hardwick Recreation Committee
- Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Rep. to the Hardwick Equity Committee
- Shaun Fielder, as Town Safety Officer
- Maya McCoy, Town Website Coordinator
- Shari Cornish, Town Representative for NVDA
- Danny Hale, Hardwick/Woodbury Rail Trail
- Richard Brochu, Town Health Officer [Current certification exp. May 31, 2022]
- Shaun Fielder, Deputy Health Officer

There was some discussion about the Energy Coordinator position and whether it is even necessary to keep it. The position has been vacant for a couple of years. We have not been able to get a description of the position. Shaun investigated the position in other Towns and found that this person would coordinate energy resources, research, and study alternate energy sources, look at how residents are using energy, etc. Shari suggested that there may be people who want to help in this role. The Town Manager’s office can create a brief description and post for the position. Gary agreed with Shari that we should evaluate if it is necessary to keep. Ceilidh asked about checking in with HED. The Town Manager’s office will post it and if there is no interest, the Board can evaluate if it should be discontinued.

Eric commented on the NVDA representative assignment and how important NVDA support is to the Town on various projects; they are an important asset. Ceilidh suggested posting the NVDA and the Energy Coordinator position to see if there is any interest. Shari has had a hard time attending their meetings because the Select Board meetings conflict with the NVDA meetings. Eric suggested that we appoint Shari this evening but look for an alternate.

Alberta mentioned that she is unsure if the Agent to Convey Real Estate can be someone that is not a Select Board member. It was decided that we will leave that off from the appointments for this evening and investigate it further.

Shaun shared that Jason Bahner is our new Recreation Coordinator. Emily Varvir is interested in joining the Recreation Committee. Her letter of interest was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Gary Bellavance, the Select Board voted to appoint all the positions as presented except the Energy Coordinator and the Agent to Convey Real Estate. Those positions will be reviewed at a future meeting.

6:29 P.M. – 6:34 P.M. Item # 2 Establish Select Board Calendar

Upon motion by Gary Bellavance, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to have the regular meetings for the next year be held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. with only one meeting in July.

6:34 P.M. – 6:38 P.M. Item #3 Town Clerk, Alberta Miller, to present various Liquor Licenses for approval

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Michael Deering, the Select Board voted to approve the Second-Class Liquor licenses for the following applicants:

*GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli
Global Montello Group, Corp. d/b/a Jiffy Mart # 457*

Select Board Reports: Shari reported that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District has given a grant to Dirt Black Farm to facilitate the creation of a residential compost program. She also reported that a site in the Wilson Industrial Park has been identified for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Michael asked about the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) getting involved in the compost process, maybe providing a location near the community garden. Shari said that this idea was mentioned previously, but it did not come to fruition. Shari suggested that he contact Lucian to see where he left this.

New Business: Shari mentioned that VLCT is offering a webinar for new and returning Select Board members. It is on March 24 at 9:00 A.M. The Town Manger’s office will share the information about the webinar with the entire Board via email. The Business Manager will investigate the logistics of registering all those who wish to attend as one registration.

Eric reminded the group that they should always use the Town email account for Town business so that if records were ever requested, only their Town email would be subject to review. If Board members were to use their personal email, that would be subject to review as well. He also spoke about emails and ensuring that no discussion is started among Board members to keep all discussions in an open meeting format.

Old Business: None

6:49 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager